

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-10

SIL-01 LAB-04 USIA-15 PA-02 PRS-01 INT-05 /076 W

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R 161717Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2884

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 3161

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJ: OPIC WEST AFRICAN BRIEFINGS

DEPT PASS OPIC FOR MAYS AND MCCALLUM

1. COOPER AND HENDERSON VISIT TO FREETOWN CONCLUDED
APRIL 12 WITH WISS REMAINING TWO WEEKS FOR FOLLOW-UP.
AFTER DAY OF REST IN ABIDJAN SUNDAY, HELD TWO FULL DAYS
MEETINGS IN IVORY COAST. COOPER AND HENDERSON CONTINUING
TO LAGOS APRIL 16 AND HOVELER PROCEEDING TO NIGER FOLLOWED
BY UPPER VOLTA AND MALI. SENSKE TO REMAIN IN ABIDJAN
TWO WEEKS.

2. IN SPITE OF LESS THAN 24 HOUR STAY FREETOWN, OPIC TEAM
HAD FOUR FRUITFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS INVESTMENT
CLIMATE, OPIC PROGRAMS AND INVESTMENT AIMS, AND
PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES. FULL BRIEFING GIVEN TO GROUP OF
ABOUT 25 LOCAL OFFICIALS IN USIS CONFERENCE ROOM, HOSTED BY
AMB SAMUELS AND FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION. SESSION EXTREMELY
LIVELY WITH MANY PERTINENT QUESTIONS ASKED AND INTEREST
SHOWN. TEAM INVITED TO DINNER WITH MINISTER OF PLAN AND
DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL BANK AT AMB HOME FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS INVESTMENT POTENTIAL. ON MORNING OF
DEPARTURE COOPER AND WISS MET WITH REPS SEABOARD
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ALLIED MILLING, MOBIL AND BETHLEHEM AND DISCUSSED

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS INCLUDING LABOR PRODUCTIVITY,
WORKINGS OF GOVT BUREAUCRACY AND INVESTMENT ATTITUDES.
HENDERSON WENT WITH ECON OFF TO MEET WITH DEVELOPMENT
BANK OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROJECTS, SUCH AS
FRUIT PROCESSING, FERTILIZER, FISHING, RICE PRODUCTION
NEARLY ALL IN FOOD RELATED SECTOR.

3. IN ABIDJAN WE HAVE GIVEN FULL BRIEFING TO THREE
SEPARATE GROUPS: THE AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUB,
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH INVESTMENT AND AGRI-
BUSINESS AND BANKERS, FIRST TWO AT LUNCHEONS, AT HOTEL AND LAST
AT DINNER AMB SMITH HOME. MEMBERS OF OPIC TEAM
VISITED SEPARATELY WITH RIEGEL TEXTILE MANAGERS, INCLUDING
TOUR OF PLANT, BUREAU OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION OF GOVERNEMTN,
LOCAL AMERICAN COMPANY MECREPCO, AND OTHERS. SWENSK
HAS FULL SCHEDULE FOR REMAINING PERIOD. PROJECTS
DISCUSSED PRIMARLY IN AGRIBUSINESS, BUT ALSO INCLUDING
LOAN TO DEVELOPMENT BANK AND IRON MINING PROJECT.
BRIEFING AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY MINPLAN. VIDEO TAPE
BY USIS AND COVERED BY PRESS.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, MEETINGS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABIDJA03161
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750134-0912
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750444/aaaaboex.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPIC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MarshK0>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPIC WEST AFRICAN BRIEFINGS DEPT PASS OPIC FOR MAYS AND MCCALLUM
TAGS: EINV, OTRA, XA, OPIC
To: STATE FREETOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006